

REMARKS

The Applicant believes that examination of this response should not result in the introduction of new matter into the present application for invention. Therefore, the Applicants, respectfully, request that the response contained herein be entered in and that the claims to the present application, kindly, be reconsidered.

The Office Action dated March 10, 2006 has been received and considered by the Applicants. Claims 1-12 are pending in the present application for invention. Claims 1-12 are rejected by the March 10, 2006 Office Action.

Claims 1-12 are rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that the applicant regards as the invention. The foregoing amendment to the claims has corrected these oversights. These amendments are not narrowing amendments and should have no effect on the interpretation of equivalences.

Claims 1-3 are rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by European Patent Application EP 10/500,503 by Westmeyer et al. (hereinafter Westmeyer et al.). The rejection alleges that Westmeyer et al. disclose or suggest that shaft and head parts of a shaft have different diameters. The Applicants traverses this assertion made in the rejection. Westmeyer et al. do not disclose or suggest parts conductive shaft and head parts of an electrode having different diameters. Therefore, this rejection is traversed.

Claims 4-12 are rejected under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over Westmeyer et al. Therefore, this rejection is traversed for the same reason stated in the response to the rejection under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Westmeyer et al.

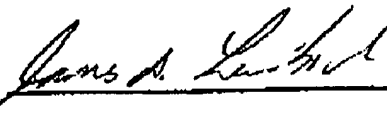
The foregoing amendment to the claims adds new claims 13-20 that define subject matter similar to that discussed above for claims 1-12. Therefore, new claims 13-20 are also believed to be allowable.

Applicant is not aware of any additional patents, publications, or other information not previously submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office which would be required under 37 C.F.R. 1.99.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicant believes that the present application is in condition for allowance, with such allowance being, respectfully, requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required for the filing of this response to Account No. 50-3745, including extension fees but excluding issue fees, and to credit the any overpayments to same account.

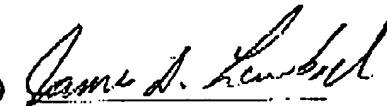
Respectfully submitted,

By 

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